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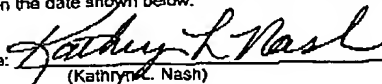
JAN 03 2006

Docket No.: 65937-0037
(PATENT)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Signature:


(Kathryn L. Nash)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3737

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS

Examiner: R. S. Smith

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Applicant has not submitted copies of each cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i), amended October 2004, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has waived this requirement for all U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material

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information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/649,068-Conf. #4645	
			Filing Date	August 27, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	Joseph L. Mark	
			Art Unit	3737	
			Examiner Name	R. S. Smith	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	65937-0037

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	AA	US-2003/0109801 A1		06-12-2003	Rhad et al.	
	AB	US-2003/0109803 A1		06-12-2003	Huiterna et al.	
	AC*	US-6,628,849		09-30-2003	09/30/2003	
	AD	US-2003/0199753 A1		10-23-2003	Hibner et al.	
	AE	US-2003/0199754 A1		10-23-2003	Hibner et al.	
	AF	US-2003/0199785 A1		10-23-2003	Hibner et al.	
	AG	US-2004/0034280 A1		02-19-2004	Privitera et al.	
	AH	US-2004/0077972 A1		04-22-2004	Tsonton et al.	
	AI	US-2005/0212175 A1		09-29-2005	Tsonton et al.	
	AJ	US-2005/0215922 A1		09-29-2005	Tsonton et al.	
	AK	US-2005/0261581 A1		11-24-2005	Hughes et al.	
	AL	US-2005/0277829 A1		12-15-2005	Tsonton et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ² -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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